Montgomery County’s traffic congestion and mobility problems will only partly be solved by building new roads, transit lines, bikeways and sidewalks. Other supportive programs and policies in the 10-Year Plan are just as important in addressing these problems.

EXPANDED BUS AND METROBUS SERVICE

The Plan calls for an expansion of the Metrobus and Ride On bus service by 50 percent in the next decade. There are three ways the Plan will improve bus service:

- **More routes:** The County will add bus routes connecting various points in the Upcounty to the Downcounty and via Virginia along the continuous I-270 HOV lanes and their extension to Tysons Corner and Dulles Airport. Traveling on separate HOV lanes, buses will travel at the posted speed limit and not be slowed by congestion. All extra new routes have been added in the areas of Gaithersburg, Germantown, Clarksburg and the Eastern County.
- **More frequent service:** Many bus routes run only every 30 minutes in the rush hours, leaving little schedule flexibility for potential riders. Within the next decade, bus service will run as frequently as every 15 minutes on new routes, and even as often as every 10 minutes on the busiest routes.
- **Later and earlier service:** Most routes start out at 6 a.m. and run only until 10 p.m. on weekdays. Hours are being extended to 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sundays. Since the initiation of the plan, some routes now start before 6 a.m. and extend until at least 12 midnight on Monday–Thursday nights, and until the early morning hours on Friday and Saturday nights. Weekend hours also will be extended.

The County will also improve the bus service in the following ways:

- The most heavily patronized bus stops are receiving shelters outfitted with benches, lighting and, eventually, real-time schedule information that will display when the next bus will arrive.
- Many bus stops are being converted to sidewalks. Some bus stops are being moved to minimize pedestrian access and safety.
- Several intersections on Randolph Road, University Boulevard, U.S. Route 29 and Veis Mill Road will be re-designed. Traffic signals will be installed and synchronized to allow buses on these highways to bypass points of congestion and speed up service.

A discounted rate for many Ride On passes will be continued, and the County will press for the same discount for most Metrobus passes.

Benefits from the new county-wide transit plan

By building the projects identified in the 10-Year Plan, traffic congestion should be reduced and mobility should be improved by Year 2015.

**Travelling times will be higher and travel time will be lower.** Travel times for certain routes in Year 2015 will be 15 minutes less than in Year 2009. This means that the average traveler will have 15 minutes more time available to use in other ways. Some travel times will increase; however, the gains in time savings will far exceed the increases in travel time.

10-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A blueprint to make a difference now for Montgomery families...